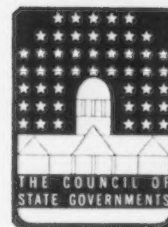


STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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No. 12

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS DIRECT LEGISLATION

Veteran Bonus -- Kentucky voters approved a referendum measure on November 3 providing for a sales tax to pay a bonus to veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict.

State Bond Issues -- North Carolina voters approved a series of state bond issues in late October totalling \$32.8 million for capital improvements. The bond authorizations included \$18.8 million for the university system, \$12 million for mental health institutions, \$1.5 million for three community colleges and \$500,000 to be used for matching funds in local hospital construction.

Florida Reapportionment Fails -- A Florida reapportionment proposal was defeated in a November referendum. The proposal would have increased membership in the Senate from thirty-eight to forty-four and in the House of Representatives from 95 to 103.

TAXES

Assessors' Training Program -- The New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment has undertaken an extensive program to train 3,000 local tax assessors. Classes will be held in each county of the state outside New York City. They will meet two nights a week for four weeks. Employees of the board will give instruction in such subjects as methods of valuation of property, preparation of assessment rolls and legal problems of assessment. It is expected that the training program for the fifty-seven counties outside New York City will take two years to complete.

Tobacco Tax Ruled Invalid -- A 25 per cent tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes

sold at the wholesale level, passed by the 1959 Washington legislature, has been ruled invalid by a County Superior Court. The levy was expected to raise \$3.5 million by June 30, 1961. Cigarettes are taxed 6 cents a pack under another state law. The court ruled that one section of the law taxing distributors outside the state shipping to retailers in Washington violated the interstate commerce clause of the United States Constitution. However, a tax on distributors within the state and not on outside distributors would be a discriminatory practice in violation of the state Constitution. As a result, the court ruled that the entire tax must fall.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

New Legislative Council -- Rhode Island recently became the thirty-ninth state to organize a Legislative Council. The council is composed of seven members -- three Senators appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and four Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House. An appropriation of \$75,000 to finance the new agency was included in the 1959 appropriations bill. The council is authorized to collect information, advise the legislature, make recommendations concerning legislation, draft measures for introduction and examine the effect of previously enacted laws.

Reference Work on State Government -- At the request of the National Legislative Conference, the Council of State Governments has compiled and published *State Government: An Annotated Bibliography*. The report contains listings of periodically revised sources of comparative data on state laws and administrative regulations, and program features and characteristics in the various fields of state operation and administrative organization. The books and pamphlets listed are published on a regular and continuing basis, or revised or supplemented from time

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to time to keep them up to date. Periodical articles which appear at regular intervals also have been listed.

The bibliography is divided into two sections. Part I contains citations to works which cover a wide variety of subject areas and is subdivided according to the form of the work -- such as periodical indexes and digests, directories and other reference books. Part II contains citations to works devoted to specific state legal provisions and program characteristics and policies. These are arranged according to broad subject headings, covering such areas as education, finance, labor, public health and taxation.

Copies of the bibliography, 46 pages, (RM-329) may be obtained from the Council at 1313 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois, for \$2.00.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Driver Licensing Agreement -- A recent agreement between Maryland and the District of Columbia will in future prevent drivers whose licenses have been suspended or revoked in one jurisdiction from obtaining another permit in the neighboring jurisdiction.

Under the agreement if a Maryland resident is issued a District of Columbia permit it will be stamped "Valid in D.C. only," and the Maryland authorities will be notified of its issuance. The same procedure will apply for a district resident obtaining a Maryland permit. Purpose of the agreement is to prevent: (1) relicensing in one jurisdiction of a driver whose license has been suspended or revoked in the other; (2) the use of either permit, when a driver is arrested, to conceal previous traffic offenses; and (3) evasion, through use of a district permit, of a Maryland requirement that juveniles prove financial responsibility.

Florida Point System -- A new point evaluation system for traffic violations, authorized by the 1959 Florida legislature, has been put into operation by the State Department of Public Safety. It is designed not only to remove drivers with bad records from the highways but also to improve attitudes of errant drivers before they reach the license suspension stage. The legislation authorizes suspension of licenses for periods ranging from one month to a year, based on convictions for traffic violations in eight categories.

Thruway to Aid Motorists -- Effective January 1, 1960, motorists traveling the New York Thruway will be able to obtain minor repair services on the highway. Thruway authority vehicles and state police cars will carry cans of gasoline and water for use by stranded motorists, and will loan them small tools. Gasoline stations located on the Thruway will provide minor repair services. Major repairs and necessary towing service will continue to

be provided by contract garages off the Thruway. Previously, repair and emergency service was available only through the contract garages. Complaints of excessive delays and high costs led the Thruway to revise these arrangements and to provide the new services.

State Driver License Study -- The New York University Center for Safety Education has completed a nationwide analysis of state driver license requirements. The study -- a two year project financed by a major oil company -- was designed to aid traffic safety programs by providing information for improving driver licensing procedures.

The results of the study are summarized in a report, *Physical and Mental Requirements for the Driver's License*. It contains a compilation and analysis of state laws and regulations governing physical and mental standards. Also presented are recommended standards as set forth in a medical-psychological symposium conducted by the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center and the Center for Safety Education. The report contains numerous charts depicting different state requirements, including requirements bearing on visual acuity, color vision, field of vision, physical defects, hearing, alcohol and drug addiction, age, diseases or ailments, and mental illness or incompetence.

THE HAWAIIAN ECONOMY

The University of Hawaii's Economic Research Center has begun five studies of the state's economy. Four are financed by a \$40,000 appropriation from the legislature. These will seek to determine if the state consumer price index, established in 1943, accurately reflects current price changes and buying habits; how flexible the state's labor force is in being able to move from one industry to another; where the tax burden lies and, if it is unfairly distributed, what legislative action is needed to effect a more equitable sharing of the burden; and what are the economic potentials of the new state. The fifth project -- under a \$39,000 grant from the United States Small Business Administration -- will study the needs of small businesses and the elements involved in failures among them.

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RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT

The Eighth Annual Interstate Conference on Reciprocal Support was held November 11-14 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. More than one-hundred delegates from thirty states attended the meeting. Topics discussed included problems relating to location of missing relatives, legislation, and court decisions during 1959 affecting reciprocal support. Concurrent sessions on legal and administrative problems were held. Harold Pressman, Deputy District Attorney of Los Angeles County, California, was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee for 1960.

ATOMIC ENERGY

Radiation Standards -- The Colorado Department of Public Health has adopted regulations specifying that standards of radiation protection in the state shall conform to the recommendations of the National Committee on Radiation Protection, the American Standards Association and the Atomic Energy Commission -- in that order of preference in case of conflict. The regulations also provide for registration of sources, personnel monitoring, area radiation surveys, storage of radioactive materials and radioactive-contamination control.

Texas Study of Radiation Protection -- The 1959 Texas legislature authorized a study of radiation exposure to radioactive materials and certain equipment. A fifteen member committee has been set up to coordinate and complete the study. It will involve all aspects of radiation as it affects the public, industry, health, research groups and the need for protection of all concerned. The committee is composed of three Senators appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, three Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and nine members appointed by the Governor. The Governor's appointees represent the fields of industry, health and the public at large.

FOREST FIRE LABORATORY

Governor S. Ernest Vandiver of Georgia recently dedicated a forest fire research laboratory at the Georgia Forestry Center in Macon. The laboratory -- a \$400,000 facility -- was built with state funds and will be operated by the Georgia Forestry Research Council on a cooperative basis with the United States Forest Service. Numerous forest fires which occurred during the droughts of the mid-fifties underlined the need for the intensified forest fire research that will be undertaken by the new laboratory. Similar facilities are expected to be opened in the future in California and Montana.

METROPOLITAN AREAS

Kentucky Committee Presents Program -- The Kentucky Advisory Committee on Metropolitan Government, appointed to assist the Legislative Research Commission in a study of metropolitan government, has submitted its proposals for a program to be recommended to the 1960 legislature.

The committee endorsed a constitutional amendment permitting first and second class cities to draft metropolitan government charters. The proposed amendment also would authorize city-county consolidation and reorganization of local administrative structures and court systems. It would remove constitutional limitations on local officers' and employees' salaries and on city taxing powers and debt provisions. Another measure would revise annexation laws, substituting decision by the circuit judge for jury trial in challenged annexation cases.

Other proposals would authorize creation of "urban service districts" to provide municipal services in unincorporated areas; authorize public expenditure and issuance of revenue bonds for industrial and economic promotion and development; provide for proper distribution of functions among city, county and special district governments; and clarify and strengthen the powers of planning commissions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS

Police Standards and Training -- The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training has begun establishing physical, mental and moral fitness standards for the hiring and training of city police and county sheriffs. The commission consists of the State Attorney General, five peace officers from city police departments or county sheriffs' offices, two elected officers or chief administrative officers of cities, and two similar county officials.

Counties and cities adhering to the standards established by the commission will receive grants from the state to cover certain administrative costs and to pay part of the salaries of peace officers participating in training programs. The grants will be financed by a 5 per cent levy on all fines, penalties or forfeitures collected by any court for a criminal offense.

Study Organization -- A nonprofit organization to conduct research into the causes of crime and delinquency on a world-wide basis has been established by California corrections officials and a private lawyer. Among the officials filing articles of incorporation for the new agency -- the Institute for the Study of Crime and Delinquency -- were Richard A. McGee, State Director of Corrections and Heman G. Stark, Director of the State Youth Authority.

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Purpose of the organization is to provide a central agency that can receive funds from various foundations and focus research on crucial problems in the corrections field. Research of particular interest to California now being undertaken by divisions in the Department of Corrections and the Youth Authority will be continued by them.

BUSINESS REGULATION

Alabama Small Loan Controls -- The Alabama legislature has passed a small loan act which provides a \$300 ceiling on "small loans" and a sliding scale of interest charges. The latter permits maximum monthly charges of \$2 on the first \$75 of a loan and 2 per cent on amounts from \$200 to \$300. The act culminates efforts backed by Governor John Patterson to end abuses in the money-lending business.

Retail Stores Checked -- The Massachusetts Division of Standards has embarked on an intensive program of checking weights and prices in retail food stores. Agents of the division, equipped with standard weights, visit stores to test scales for accuracy. They also make random checks of pre-packaged meat items, checking weights and prices shown on the packages. The division has filed a number of cases in the courts this year charging underweighing or overpricing of pre-packaged food items.

Fair Trade Act -- Attorney General Malcolm Seawell of North Carolina has requested the legislature to repeal the state's recently enacted "fair trade" law. The measure authorized oil companies to "fair trade" gasoline prices. The request followed an in-

vestigation by the Attorney General of company practices. In requesting the repeal of the law the Attorney General pointed out that eighteen of forty-five state "fair trade" acts have been rendered ineffectual either by court decisions or by legislative action.

CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The tenth Annual Iowa Governor's Conference on Children and Youth was held at Des Moines September 25, under the sponsorship of Governor Herschel C. Loveless and the Iowa Commission on Children and Youth. Purpose of the meeting was two-fold -- to survey progress of the past decade in improving the health, educational, recreational and social opportunities for Iowa's young people, and to assemble information and make recommendations for the Iowa delegation to the White House Conference on Children and Youth, to be held in Washington, D. C. in 1960.

Attending the Governor's Conference were representatives from six state agencies, county welfare department staff members, students and faculty members from six colleges and five high schools, clergymen, judges, probation officers and staff members of five major youth organizations.

Following reports and discussion in seven workshops, conference participants made several suggestions for the future. Proposals included establishment of a psychological and psychiatric center for disturbed children; juvenile institutions for first offenders and others with a good potential for rehabilitation; enlargement of opportunities for apprentice vocational training; and availability of more tax funds to train teachers and provide facilities for exceptional children.

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